



SPONSOR: Sen. Gay & Sen. Sokola & Rep. Schwartzkopf  
Sens. Ennis, Lopez, S. McBride, Pettyjohn, Townsend,  
Walsh; Reps. Baumbach, Briggs King, Dukes, Gray,  
Heffernan, K. Johnson, Mitchell, Osienski, Ramone,  
D. Short, Michael Smith, Spiegelman, Yearick

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 69

URGING THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY TO DESIGNATE PHILADELPHIA AND BOTH BANKS OF THE DELAWARE RIVER AS THE SITE OF THE MAIN CELEBRATION OF THE 250TH BIRTHDAYS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY AND THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2025.

1 WHEREAS, the United States Navy was founded in Pennsylvania on October 13, 1775, when the Second  
2 Continental Congress at Independence Hall in Philadelphia authorized its first ships; and

3 WHEREAS, later that year in Pennsylvania, the Continental Navy commissioned its first ship and granted its first  
4 commission to John Barry, the father of the American Navy; and

5 WHEREAS, the Second Continental Congress in Pennsylvania commissioned Lieutenant John Paul Jones, who,  
6 on the Delaware, was the first to raise an American national flag, the Grand Union Flag, on a naval vessel; and

7 WHEREAS, the first ship to be commissioned as the U.S.S. Delaware was built under the order of the Continental  
8 Congress in Philadelphia on December 13, 1775 and launched in July 1776 and was commanded for a time by Captain John  
9 Barry; and

10 WHEREAS, the United States Marine Corps was founded in Pennsylvania on November 10, 1775, when the  
11 Second Continental Congress at Independence Hall in Philadelphia authorized the recruitment of two battalions; and

12 WHEREAS, the United States Marine Corps was born later that year after its first commissioned officer Captain  
13 Samuel Nicholas held a recruiting drive in Tun Tavern in Philadelphia; and

14 WHEREAS, the first United States Marine Corps amphibious operation, mounted from Pennsylvania, seized  
15 sorely needed gunpowder for the Continental Army; and

16 WHEREAS, the State of Delaware, at the port of Wilmington, played an important role in designing and building  
17 ships at the shipyards of Harlan and Hollingsworth and Pusey and Jones in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and added the shipyard of  
18 Dravo in the 20<sup>th</sup> century; and

19 WHEREAS, the State of Delaware has contributed sons and daughters to lead the United States Navy and the  
20 United States Marine Corps since their birth, including Commodore Jacob Jones, Commodore Thomas Macdonough, and  
21 Admiral Samuel Francis DuPont; and

22 WHEREAS, the United States Navy commissioned the seventh ship to be named the U.S.S. Delaware, on April 4,  
23 2020, which is the SSN-791, as a Virginia Class Attack Submarine and which was also the first ship in the history of the  
24 United States Navy to be commissioned underwater; and

25 WHEREAS, the United States Navy's 250-year history should be celebrated by assembling ships, including the  
26 Pennsylvania State Flagship *Niagara*, from every major war the United States Navy has fought and the newest U.S.S.  
27 Delaware; and

28 WHEREAS, this assemblage would be possible only in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania because Philadelphia  
29 has preserved the *U.S.S. Olympia*, the sole surviving naval vessel of the Spanish-American War; and

30 WHEREAS, the United States Marine Corps' 250th birthday should be celebrated by rebuilding Tun Tavern in  
31 Philadelphia, drawing United States Marines from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and beyond.

32 NOW, THEREFORE:

33 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 151st General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of  
34 Representatives concurring therein, that the General Assembly urges the Secretary of the Navy to designate Philadelphia  
35 and both banks of the Delaware River as the site of the main celebration of the 250th birthdays of the United States Navy  
36 and the United States Marine Corps in October and November 2025.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly urges the United States Navy and the United States  
38 Marine Corps to participate by bringing active-duty ships, including the U.S.S. Delaware; aircraft; equipment; and  
39 personnel that represent the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after final passage the Secretary of the Senate send copies of this resolution to  
41 the President of the United States, the United States Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, the Commandant of  
42 the Marine Corps, and each member of the Delaware Congressional Delegation.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Concurrent Resolution urges the Secretary of the Navy to designate Philadelphia and both banks of the Delaware River as the site of the main celebration of the 250th birthdays of the United States Navy and United States Marine Corps in October and November 2025.

Author: Senator Gay